

SENATE BILL 1306

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 7, relative to student athletes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) There is created a student athlete task force, hereafter referred to as the "task force," to make recommendations to the general assembly and:

(1) Study and evaluate concussions and other injuries received from long-term, continued participation in high school, college, university, community, or junior college level sports;

(2) Examine the academic growth and behavior of the students who participate in high school, college, university, community, or junior college level sports; and

(3) Determine the best remedy for student athletes who enroll at any college, university, community, or junior college that offers an athletic scholarship to the student athlete, but the scholarship is withdrawn because the student is unable to remain on the athletic team because of a concussion or other sports-related injury.

(b) The task force shall consist of fifteen (15) members, at a minimum. The members shall include:

(1) One (1) representative appointed by the superintendent of Memphis City Schools;

(2) One (1) representative appointed by the superintendent of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools;

(3) One (1) representative appointed by the superintendent of Hamilton County Schools;

(4) One (1) representative from the University of Memphis;

(5) One (1) representative from Austin Peay State University;

(6) One (1) representative from East Tennessee State University;

(7) One (1) representative from Middle Tennessee State University;

(8) One (1) representative from Tennessee State University;

(9) One (1) representative from Tennessee Tech University;

(10) One (1) representative appointed by the board of regents;

(11) One (1) representative appointed by the University of Tennessee;

(12) One (1) representative from the department of education;

(13) One (1) representative from the department of health;

(14) One (1) representative from the state board of education; and

(15) One (1) representative from Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA).

(c) The task force may request that one (1) representative from the National Collegiate Athletic Association participate in the task force.

(d) The department of education shall provide support services to each task force created under this section, including, but not limited to, facilitating communications among task force members. The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee shall report the task force's findings and recommendations, including recommended legislation or rules, to the education committee of the senate, education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives by

February 2, 2018. The task force shall cease to exist upon completion of the task force's report and recommendations.

(e) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.